Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.   Canceled.

2.   (Presently Amended) The method of claim ~~1~~ 4 wherein said providing step includes the step of comparing said second trust rating to a predetermined trust rating threshold and wherein said predetermined criteria comprises said predetermined trust rating threshold.

3.   Canceled.

4.   (Presently Amended) ~~The method of claim 1 further including,~~ A method for evaluating a set of credentials comprising at least one group credential, comprising:
         ascertaining at least one first trust rating within at least one of said credentials within said set of credentials including said group credential, wherein each of said first trust ratings is associated with a level of confidence in information being certified within the respective credential;
         in the event said set of credentials forms a plurality of certification paths having at least one credential in each of said paths, ~~the steps of:~~ determining for each of said plurality of certification paths a third trust rating equal to the lowest trust rating in the credentials of the respective certification path; ~~and~~
         determining a second trust rating for said set of credentials based, at least in part, upon an analysis of said at least one first trust rating by assigning said second trust rating equal to the highest trust rating of said third trust ratings; and

| 16 | | providing a signal in the event said second trust rating satisfies |
| 17 | | predetermined criteria. |

1   5.   (Original) The method of claim 4 wherein said providing step includes the step

2   of comparing said second trust rating to said predetermined criteria.

1   6.   (Presently Amended) The method of claim ~~1~~ 4 wherein said signal comprises as

2   indication that access to a resource should be granted.

1   7.   (Original) The method of claim 6 further including the step of granting access to

2   said resource in response to said indication.

1   8.   (Original) The method of claim 7 wherein said resource comprises a file on a file

2   server.

1   9.   (Original) The method of claim 7 wherein said resource comprises a web page.

1   10.   (Original) The method of claim 7 wherein said resource comprises a secure

2   area.

1   11.   (Original) The method of claim 7 wherein said resource comprises a database.

1   12.   (Presently Amended) The method of claim ~~3~~ 4 wherein said ascertaining step

2   further includes the step of obtaining an identity credential trust rating

3   associated with an identity credential within said certification path.

1   13.   (Canceled)

1   14.   (Presently Amended) The system of claim ~~13~~ 16 wherein said access control

2   program further includes program code for comparing said second trust rating

3   to a predetermined trust rating threshold and wherein said predetermined

4   criteria comprises said predetermined trust rating threshold.

1   15.   (Canceled).

1   16.   (Presently Amended) ~~The system of claim 13 wherein said access control~~

2   ~~program further includes~~ <u>A system for evaluating a set of credentials including</u>

3   <u>at least one group credential comprising:</u>

4   <u>a memory containing an access control program; and</u>

5   <u>a processor operative to execute said access control program;</u>

6   <u>said access control program comprising:</u>

7   <u>program code for ascertaining at least one first trust rating within</u>

8   <u>at least one of said credentials within said set of credentials including</u>

9   <u>said group credential, wherein each of said first trust ratings is</u>

10   <u>associated with a level of confidence in information being certified within</u>

11   <u>the respective credential;</u>

12   program code operative in the event said set of credentials forms

13   plural certification paths for[[:]] determining for each of said plural

14   certification paths a third trust rating equal to the lowest trust rating in the

15   credentials within the respective certification path; ~~and~~

16   <u>program code for determining a second trust rating for said set of</u>

17   <u>credentials based, at least in part, upon an analysis of said at least one</u>

18   <u>first trust rating by</u> assigning said second trust rating equal to the highest

19   trust rating of said third trust ratings<u>; and</u>

20   <u>program code for providing a signal in the event said second trust</u>

21   <u>rating satisfies predetermined criteria.</u>

1   17.   (Presently Amended) The system of claim ~~13~~ <u>16</u> wherein said signal comprises

2   an indication that access to a resource should be granted.

4

1   18.   (Presently Amended) A computer program product including a computer

2   readable medium, said computer readable medium having an access control

3   program stored thereon, said access control program for execution on a

4   processor and comprising:

5   program code for ascertaining at least one first trust rating within at least

6   one credential within a set of credentials including group credential, wherein

7   each of said first trust ratings is associated with a level of confidence in

8   information being certified within the respective credential;

9   program code operative in the event said set of credentials forms plural

10   certification paths for determining for each of said plural certification paths a

11   third trust rating equal to the lowest trust rating in the credentials within the

12   respective certification path;

13   program code for determining a second trust rating for said set of

14   credentials based, at least in part, upon an analysis of said at least one first

15   trust rating by assigning said second trust rating equal to the highest trust rating

16   of said third trust ratings; and

17   program code for providing a signal in the event said second trust rating

18   satisfies predetermined criteria.

1   19.   (Presently Amended) A computer data signal, said computer data signal

2   including a computer program for use in evaluating a set of credentials, said

3   computer program comprising:

4   program code for ascertaining at least one first trust rating within at least

5   one credential within said set of credentials, wherein said set of credentials

6   includes a group credential and wherein each of said first trust ratings is

7   associated with a level of confidence in information being certified within the

8   respective credential;

9   program code operative in the event said set of credentials forms plural

10   certification paths for determining for each of said plural certification paths a

11   third trust rating equal to the lowest trust rating in the credentials within the

12   respective certification path;

13   program code for determining a second trust rating for said set of

14   credentials based, at least in part, upon an analysis of said at least one first

15   trust rating <u>by assigning said second trust rating equal to the highest trust rating</u>

16   <u>of said third trust ratings</u>; and

17   program code for providing a signal in the event said second trust rating

18   satisfies predetermined criteria.

1   20.   (Presently Amended) A system for evaluating a set of credentials including at

2   least one group credential comprising[[;]]:

3   means for storing an access control program; and

4   means for executing said access control program out of said storing

5   means, said access control program including:

6   program code for ascertaining at least one first trust rating within

7   at least one of said credentials within said set of credentials including

8   said group credential, wherein each of said first trust ratings is

9   associated with a level of confidence in information being certified within

10   the respective credential;

11   <u>program code operative in the event said set of credentials forms</u>

12   <u>plural certification paths for determining for each of said plural</u>

13   <u>certification paths a third trust rating equal to the lowest trust rating in the</u>

14   <u>credentials within the respective certification path;</u>

15   program code for determining a second trust rating for said set of

16   credentials based, at least in part, upon an analysis of said at least one

17   first trust rating <u>by assigning said second trust rating equal to the highest</u>

18   <u>trust rating of said third trust ratings</u>; and

19   program code for providing a signal in the event said second trust

20   rating satisfies predetermined criteria.

1   21.   (Presently Amended) A method for evaluating a set of credentials comprising at

2   least one group credential comprising:

3	ascertaining at least one first trust rating within at least one of said
4	credentials within said set of credentials including said group credential,
5	wherein each of said first trust ratings is associated with a level of confidence in
6	information being certified within the respective credential;
7	in the event said set of credentials forms plural certification paths,
8	determining for each of said plural certification paths a third trust rating equal to
9	the lowest trust rating in the credentials within the respective certification path;
10	determining a second trust rating for said set of credentials based, at
11	least in part, upon an analysis of said at least one first trust rating by assigning
12	said second trust rating equal to the highest trust rating of said third trust
13	ratings; and
14	storing said second trust rating for subsequent use.

| 1 | 22. | (Original) The method of claim 21 further including the step of inserting said |
| 2 | | second trust rating stored in said storing step in another group credential. |